

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A tension mask assembly for a flat cathode ray tube includes a tension mask having a plurality of strips separated from one another by a predetermined gap, real bridges connecting adjacent strips to thus define slots through which electron beams pass, and first and second dummy bridges extending from adjacent strips toward each slot therebetween, the tension mask being installed such that its top surface faces a panel forming a screen and it is separated from the panel by a predetermined gap, a plurality of supporting members disposed at opposite sides of the tension mask to support the tension mask, and a plurality of rigid members secured to opposite ends of the supporting members to apply tension to the tension mask. A first etching boundary formed at an end of the first dummy bridge near to the center of the tension mask is lower with respect to the screen than a second etching boundary formed at an end of the second dummy bridge near to the periphery of the tension mask. The shape of a section of a slot having dummy bridges are formed such that an electron beam is prevented from passing through the slot, thereby solving the problem of visibility. Therefore, cathode ray tubes having a high definition can be manufactured.